

State of Connecticut

Appropriations Committee

Zero funding of the New Britain Museum of American Art as part of the Art Museum Consortium is counterproductive and counter intuitive when you consider that the NBMAA is a proven driver of cultural tourism in the region, a generator of from \$1.5-\$3 million in economic impact per major exhibition, a provider of quality educational services to over 80+ cities and towns in the state and a valued community gathering place. We are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums with the highest accolades. And the public has voted with its feet with visitation growing from 30,000 to 90,000+ per year over the last ten years. Our sister museums in the consortium can boast similar achievements.

Zero funding for the NBMAA is particularly puzzling given the state's recent investment of \$4 million in an Urban Act Grant for our \$22 million expansion project that realized the opening of a 17,346 sq. ft. addition providing seven new galleries and three state-of-the-art art studios—on time, on budget, no debt.

We acknowledge the difficult economic times, but remain hopeful that thoughtful consideration will be given to this situation so that our funding is restored.

Sincerely,

Claudia Thesing
Director of Development
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